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Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Noel **González Segura** (Mexico)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendation made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 131 is set out in the report of the Committee contained in document A/66/626.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of the item at its 31st, 35th and 38th meetings, on 7 and 22 May and 12 June. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/66/SR.31, 35 and 38).

3. For its further consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Financial report and audited financial statements for the 12-month period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 and report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations (A/66/5 (Vol. II));

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2011 (A/66/693);

(c) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/719);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on enhancing accountability, transparency and cost-effectiveness in the United Nations system: proposals to clarify and enhance the role of the Board of Auditors in the conduct of performance audits (A/66/747 and Corr.1);

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(e) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/66/806).

4. At the 31st and 35th meetings, on 7 and 22 May, the Director of External Audit of China and Chair of the Audit Operations Committee of the Board of Auditors introduced the reports of the Board (see A/C.5/66/SR.31 and 35).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.37

5. At its 38th meeting, on 12 June, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors" (A/C.5/66/L.37), submitted by the Chair of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Egypt.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/66/L.37 without a vote (see para. 7).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

7. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

The General Assembly,

I
Financial reports and audited financial statements, and reports of the Board of Auditors

Recalling its resolutions 65/243 B of 30 June 2011 and 66/232 of 24 December 2011,

Having considered the financial report and audited financial statements for the twelve-month period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 and report of the Board of Auditors on United Nations peacekeeping operations[1] and the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2011,[2] as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

1. *Accepts* the financial report and audited financial statements of the United Nations peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011;[1]

2. *Takes note* of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Board of Auditors;[4]

3. *Also takes note* of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[3]

4. *Commends* the Board of Auditors for the quality of its report and the streamlined format thereof;

5. *Notes* with encouragement that there were improvements in the financial and administrative management of peacekeeping operations, and expects that those trends will be sustained in future financial periods;

6. *Stresses* the importance of the Secretary-General's stewardship of the management of assets for peacekeeping;

7. *Expresses its concern* with respect to the extent of cancellation of prior-period obligations and the continued high level of obligations raised during the last month of the financial period, and requests the Secretary-General to make further efforts to improve current practices regarding unliquidated obligations;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/66/5), vol. II.

[2] A/66/693.

[3] A/66/719.

[4] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 5* (A/66/5), vol. II, chap. II.

8. *Emphasizes* the need to continue to implement the International Public Sector Accounting Standards and stresses that the leadership and commitment of senior managers is critical to ensure timely and full implementation of the Standards throughout peacekeeping;

9. *Recalls* its resolution 66/246 of 24 December 2011, and requests the Secretary-General to require all missions to establish their own International Public Sector Accounting Standards implementation teams with clear terms of reference, take proactive action to identify the specific needs of peacekeeping operations and work closely with the United Nations Secretariat implementation team to expedite the preparations for the implementation of the Standards;

10. *Expresses* concern that there is weakness in the oversight of procurement, and requests the Secretary-General to provide a thorough analysis of the oversight of procurement in United Nations peacekeeping operations in order to enhance its management in a more accountable manner in the context of his next report on implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations for the financial period ended 30 June 2011;[2]

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the related recommendations of the Advisory Committee in a prompt and timely manner;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to continue to indicate an expected time frame for the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors and the priorities for their implementation, including the office holders to be held accountable and measures taken in that regard;

14. *Further requests* the Secretary-General to provide, in his next report on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors concerning United Nations peacekeeping operations, a full explanation for the delays in the implementation of all outstanding recommendations of the Board, the root causes of the recurring issues and the measures to be taken;

II
Role of the Board of Auditors in the conduct of performance audits

Recalling paragraphs 19 and 20 of its resolution 65/243 B of 30 June 2011,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on enhancing accountability, transparency and cost-effectiveness in the United Nations system: proposal to clarify and enhance the role of the Board of Auditors in the conduct of performance audits,[5] as well as the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6]

1. *Takes note* of the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on the Board's role in the conduct of performance audits;[5]

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[5] A/66/747 and Corr.1.

[6] A/66/806.

2. *Also takes note* of the observations and endorses the recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Reaffirms* that the Board shall be completely independent and solely responsible for the conduct of audit;

4. *Recognizes* the importance for the Board to continue to include information on matters it deems necessary to draw to the attention of the governing bodies, in accordance with regulation 7.11 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;[7]

5. *Takes note* of paragraphs 25 and 34 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[6] concurs with the Advisory Committee that a more formal mechanism between the Board and the Advisory Committee is unnecessary and stresses the need for the Board to continue to provide to its clients the full range of high-quality audit services;

6. *Recognizes* the importance of the continued comprehensiveness of information contained in the reports of the Board, which is beneficial for the consideration of administrative and budgetary issues of the United Nations system.

[7] ST/SGB/2003/7 and Amend.1.